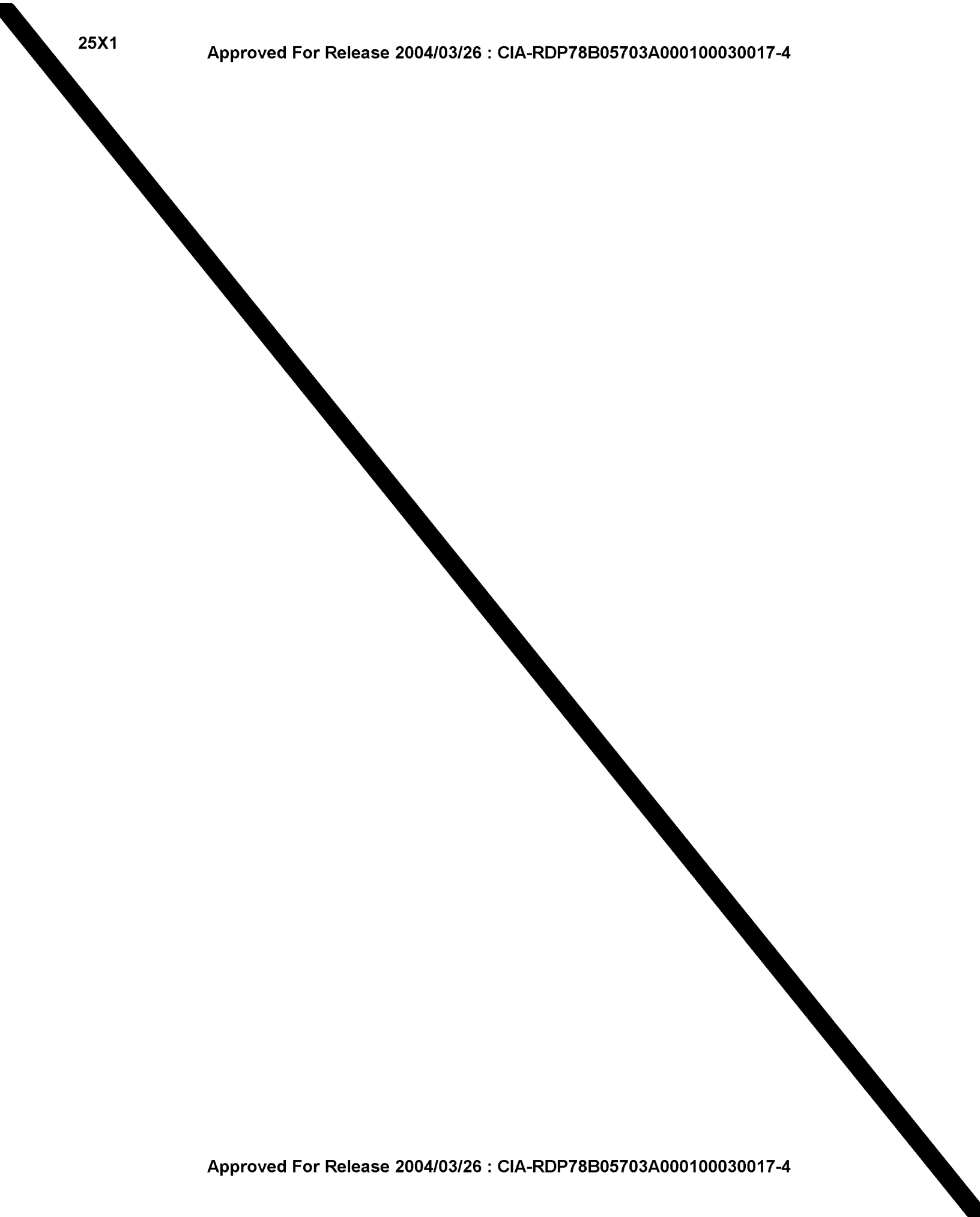
25X1

Approved For Release 2004/03/26 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100030017-4



Approved For Release 2004/03/26 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100030017-4

Approved For Release 2004/03/26 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100030017-4

[redacted]

25X1

[redacted]
27 August 1970

Copy 2

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Executive Director, NPIC

SUBJECT : Usefulness of Cloud Coverage vs. Interpretability Reporting

X1 REFERENCE : [redacted] Dated 20 August 1970

1. At the present time two components within NPIC are tasked to provide a suitability assessment for Soviet ICBM complexes on each mission. Each of these components is asked to provide an assessment using different criteria to different requestors within different deadlines.

2. The Operations Support Section of the Geographic Services Branch, R&RD/PSG is tasked by ICRS to provide a plot of cloud free photography over a variable list of selected ICBM complexes as soon as possible after the photography arrives at NPIC so that information from the first bucket can be used to program the second bucket.

3. The Offensive Missiles Branch, MSD/IEG is tasked by OSR to provide a graphic record of those areas within all ICBM and MR/IRBM complexes which were covered by photography of sufficient interpretability to certify the lack of additional deployment. This data is to be disseminated to the requestor within 14 days following completion of the mission readout.

4. The cloud cover plots delivered to ICRS by PSG are a satisfactory representation of which areas were observed cloud free and are timely enough to be used for programming the second bucket, but they do not reflect those areas rendered unnegatable for other reasons (such as scale, obliquity, lighting conditions, etc.). As a recent example, the SS-9 ICBM complexes which were [redacted] 25X1 were reviewed by the Operations Support Section, GSB, R&RD/PSG and a cloud cover plot was prepared. These plots were reviewed by the Missiles and Space Division and the interpretability data added.

25X

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

Approved For Release 2004/03/26 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100030017-4

[redacted]

25X

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/03/26 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100030017-4

TOP SECRET

[redacted]

25X1

[redacted]

25X1

27 August 1970

SUBJECT: Usefulness of Cloud Coverage vs. Interpretability Reporting

With the exception of the Uzhur complex, the PSG cloud coverage data was very similar to the Missiles & Space Division's interpretability data. However, at Uzhur there was a wide discrepency. PSG data indicated that the complex was 90 percent cloud free and MSD data indicated the complex had only 25 percent interpretable coverage. This difference can be explained by the haze layer which covered a large portion of the complex. This haze layer did not prevent PSG from seeing the ground and therefore, it was carried by PSG as cloud free photography. However, this same haze layer prevented the photo interpreter in MSD from being absolutely sure there was no additional SSM deployment in the area. As illustrated by the above example this difference can be quite significant; however, there was fairly close agreement on the other complexes.

There are several alternatives to be considered:

a. Establish new criteria for PSG to follow by giving them more latitude in making judgements on interpretability. Their final product would still be coordinated with MSD but the bulk of the work would be accomplished in PSG.

b. Have one of PSG personnel work along with the PIs in MSD in preparing the overlays.

c. Maintain the status quo with the understanding that the two criteria of interpretability and cloud cover will not always agree.

5. Finally, there is no doubt that interpretability is the key in answering the community need concerning the total SSM new start problem.

[redacted]

25X1

Acting Chief, Imagery Exploitation Group
NPIC

Distribution:
Copy 1 & 2 - NPIC/ODIR
3 - NPIC/IEG/MSD
4 - NPIC/IEG

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/03/26 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100030017-4

TOP SECRET

[redacted]

25X1